In the Claims:

Claims 1-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A method for writing data to RF tags, comprising:

programming one or more of a first set of RF tags in a programmer,

removing a media supply of the first set of RF tags from the programmer,

installing a second set of RF tags in the programmer, and

programming at least one of the second set of RF tags, wherein;

the first set and second set of RF tags use different communication interfaces and wherein;

switching the programmer from the communication interface corresponding to the first set of RF tags to the communication interface corresponding to the second set of RF tags happens substantially automatically.

28. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein;

the first set of RF tags uses a first communication protocol, and

the second set of RF tags uses a second communication protocol.

29. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein;

the first set of RF tags uses a first communication frequency, and

the second set of RF tags uses a second communication frequency.

30. (original) The method of claim 27, further comprising;

printing indicia on a surface of said first one or more RF tags with a print engine.

31. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein;

the print engine comprises a thermal print engine.

32. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein;

the print engine comprises a flexographic printing press.

33. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein;

switching the programmer from the first communication interface to the second communication interface happens substantially without overt user intervention.

34. (currently amended) An intelligent label programmer comprising:

a print engine operable to print on sets of intelligent labels, the sets of intelligent labels being characterized by differing RF protocols;

a multi-protocol RF tag programmer functionally associated with the print engine, the multi-protocol RF tag programmer being operable to program the sets of intelligent labels characterized by differing RF protocols and wherein the multi-protocol RF tag programmer is operable to switch between differing RF protocols automatically.

35. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 34 wherein the print engine and multi-protocol RF tag programmer are operatively coupled to a common computer interface.

36. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 35 wherein the print engine and multi-protocol RF tag programmer are operable to respond to programming commands received through the common computer interface.

37. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 34 wherein the print engine and multi-protocol RF tag programmer are supported within a common housing.

38. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 37 wherein the housing includes further provision for supporting at least one supply of intelligent labels.

39. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 34 wherein the print engine includes a housing and wherein the multi-protocol RF tag programmer is coupled to the housing.

40. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 34 wherein the print engine is a thermal print engine.

41. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 34 wherein the print engine is a thermal transfer print engine.

42. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 34 wherein the sets of labels are characterized by differing RF communication frequencies and the a multi-protocol RF tag programmer is operable to program the sets of intelligent labels characterized by differing RF communication frequencies.

43. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 34 wherein the multi-protocol RF tag programmer further comprises:

a first RF tag programmer operable to communicate with an intelligent label set as the intelligent labels in the set pass through a first communication field; and

an RFID module coupled to the first RF tag programmer through an interface, the RFID module operable to communicate with an intelligent label set as the intelligent labels in the set pass through a second communication field.

44. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 43 wherein:

the first RF tag programmer is operable to communicate with an intelligent label set having a first communication protocol; and

the RFID module is operable to communicate with an intelligent label set having a second communication protocol.

45. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 44 wherein the first and second communication protocols include differing RF communication frequencies.

46. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 43 wherein the RFID module is configured to be installable as an option.

47. (previously presented) The intelligent label programmer of claim 43 wherein the RFID module is configured to be installable as an accessory.

48. (previously presented) An intelligent label printer comprising:

a housing including a media path defined therein;

a print station in the housing configured with the media path passing therethrough; and

an RF tag programmer in the housing having a first antenna operable to address a first communication field coincident with at least a portion of the media path and a second antenna operable to address a second communication field coincident with at least a portion of the media path.

49. (previously presented) The intelligent label printer of claim 48 wherein the first and second antennas are operable to communicate at different first and second RF communication frequencies.

50. (previously presented) The intelligent label printer of claim 48 wherein the first and second antennas are operable to address respective first and second communication fields that are not coincident with each other.

51. (previously presented) The intelligent label printer of claim 50 wherein the first and second communication fields are substantially non-overlapping.

52. (previously presented) The intelligent label printer of claim 48 further comprising:

an electronic controller in the housing operatively coupled to the print station and the RF tag programmer.

53. (previously presented) The intelligent label printer of claim 52 further comprising:

a modular RFID device operatively coupled to the electronic controller and the second antenna is operatively coupled to the modular RFID device.

54. (previously presented) The intelligent label printer of claim 48 further comprising:

a modular RFID device operatively coupled to the RF tag programmer and wherein the second antenna is operatively coupled to the modular RFID device.

55. (previously presented) A method for preparing intelligent labels comprising:

automatically detecting a first RF communication protocol compatible with a first set of intelligent labels;

printing indicia on and programming the first set of intelligent labels using the first RF communication protocol;

automatically detecting a second RF communication protocol different from the first RF communication protocol compatible with a second set of intelligent labels; and

printing indicia on and programming the second set of RF tags using the second RF communication protocol.

56. (previously presented) The method for preparing intelligent labels of claim 55 wherein the first and second different RF communication protocols include different communication frequencies.

57. (previously presented) The method for preparing intelligent labels of claim 55 wherein the steps of automatically detecting the first and second RF communication protocols includes issuing an RF command and listening for a response.

58. (previously presented) The method for preparing intelligent labels of claim 55 wherein the step of automatically detecting the second RF communication protocol

includes receiving a computer command to communicate using the second RF communication protocol.